selection quota cannot be operated for filling the vacancies for promotion and direct recruitment quotas.

Characterisation of air hostesses and flight pursers

3238. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines have characterised the categories of air hostesses and flight pursers on sex basis;

(b) what are the reasons for this differentiation and the details of the duties performed by those belonging to different categories;

(c) whether the flight pursers were allowed to fly as Air Hostesses by Air India; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) In Air India the duties of the air-hostesses and flight pursers are not identical.

In Indian Airlines, however, female cabin crew are designated as air-hostesses and male cabin crew as flight pursers and both these categories perform identical duties and are appointed on the same scales of pay.

(b) In accordance with an agreement arrived at between the management of Air India, Air hostesses and Flight pursers are separate cadres. In Indian Airlines, is no differentiation between the two.

(c) and (d) In 1984, due to reduction in the frequency of flights, Asstt. Flight Pursers were surplus in Air India and there was shortage of air hostesses. Therefore, at the request of the Asstt. Flight pursers, who otherwise could have been retrenched, they were allowed to perform the duties of air hostesses. However, in course of time the position of surplus Asstt. Flight Pursers ceased to exist and they continued to work as Asstt. Flight Pursers.

Recruitment of air hostesses in Air India

3239. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules are in force for constitution of a panel for recruitment of Air hostesses in Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision for inducting the Chief Air Hostess in the final selection panel; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recruitment of air hostesses in Indian Airlines and Air India is made in accordance with Recruitment and Promotion Rules. As and when vacancies arise, an advertisement is issued inviting applications for the posts. The eligible candidates are subjected to group discussion and those qualified are interviewed by a Selection Board as provided for in the Recruitment and Promotion Rules. The candidates found suitable are empanelled for appointment as air hostesses. The Selection Board in Indian Airlines and Air India consists of the following:—

Indian Airlines

(i) Regional Director or his nominee

(ii) Operations Manager or his nominee

(iii) Manager, Personnel Services or his nominee

(iv) Director of Operations or his nominee

Air India

(i) Member from the Inflight service Department

(ii) Member from the Human Resource Development Department

(iii) Member belonging to SC/ST

The member is of the level of Sr. Station Manager or equivalent.

(c) and (d) At present there is no provision for induction of Chief Air-hostesses in the Selection panel for air hostesses.

Closure of Air India Office at London

3240. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has closed down its establishment at London despite heavy traffic existing;

(b) what are the details regarding reduction in traffic originating at London after closure of the establishment;

(c) whether Air India has retained the operations office at London even after closure of other establishments;

(d) if so, the work assigned to the said office;

(e) what are the details of the arrangements made by Air-India to brief the Pilots and other staff before flights; and

(f) whether Government are considering to review the impact of the closure of the office at London; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Operations Central Flight Control Office has been assigned the work related to flight control for European Region (London, Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam & Rome).

(e) Flight Despatch handling including Crew briefing at London has been asigned to British Airways on contract basis.

(f) At present there is no such proposal.

Special casual leave to the delegates of AIKVTA, Bhopal Region

3241. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that special casual leave is granted to all the delegates to the national/regional conventions of recognised associations of Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, what are the names of delegates of different associations of teaching Staff of KVS who have been granted special casual leave for the conventions held in 1988 and 1989;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Bhopal Regional Officer of KVS has recently refused grant of the said leave to the delegates of AIKVTA Bhopal Regional convention; and

(d) what action has been taken against the said officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.